



Two new directors to head Statistics Austria

The reorganisation of the Austrian Central Statistical Office ('Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt', Östat) has not only meant a name switch to Statistics Austria, a change in statute (see article next page), but also new managers coming on board.

On 1 January 2000 Dr Ewald Kutzenberger and Dr Gabriela Petrovic took up their posts as new statistical director and commercial director of Statistics Austria. After being recruited by an outplacement consultancy and recommended by a selection committee, they were each appointed for a five-year term of office by the Austrian Chancellor in November.

Dr Ewald Kutzenberger, 55, first worked as an industrial clerk for ten years in

Austria's biggest iron and steel company before obtaining his secondary education diploma under a part-time work-training scheme. He then studied social and economic statistics in Linz and played a key role, first as a tutor, then as a junior lecturer, in setting up a computer centre at the university.

In 1972 he joined the statistical department of the Upper Austrian Land Government and was appointed head of department in 1985.

A lecturer in demography, research planning and official statistics at the University of Linz, Dr Kutzenberger remains in close contact with the academic world. He has also been a member of the National Commission on Statistics and its key specialist advisory committees as a Land statistician since 1985.

He is thus well acquainted with the issues and problems associated with statistics at the federal level.

His special field is demography. He has conducted demographic research in the People's Republic of China and in Japan, and also attended the UN-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. He is no stranger to European statistics either: in 1992, he was seconded to Eurostat and took part in several seminars under the TES programme (Training of European Statisticians).

As statistical director of Statistics Austria, Dr Kutzenberger will be responsible for all matters concerning the field of statistics and the public authorities. He is particularly keen on developing federal statistics as a service to

public administration, industry and the public through the systematic use of total quality management. Priority will be given to customer satisfaction, the quality of products and services, the development of the European statistical system, staff motivation and satisfaction and internal productivity.

Dr Kutzenberger is looking forward to working closely with the commercial director to develop Statistics Austria as a modern and highly reputed service.

Dr Gabriela Petrovic, 41, from Vienna, is a law graduate who initially worked for several years as a junior lecturer at the Vienna Institute of Labour and Social Law. She then left academia to take up a post as head of personnel with a major commercial company and, from there, moved to a managerial position in a printing and media company.

As commercial director of Statistics Austria, she will be responsible for the economic aspects of the reorganisation – as a federal body under public law, the Central Statistical Office will have to pay greater attention to efficiency than hitherto.

Dr Petrovic considers that her priorities are to set up modern accounting and audit systems, to introduce appropriate management structures and to establish effective human resource development measures that optimise staff potential. The corporate-like aim is to ensure that federal statistics are produced competently and cost-effectively. ■